

## Subpart A – Engineering Activities Affecting Utilities

### MN503.02 General considerations.

(e) A list of all utility companies including addresses, telephone numbers and names of contact persons should be maintained in the field office. This list can be used to contact utility companies concerning information about specific installations during design.

(1) A warning statement as follows shall be placed on all engineering plans:

**“State law and NRCS policy require that the excavator contact Gopher State One-Call at (800) 252-1166 for utility locations 48 hours prior to the start of excavation work.”**

*Note: Previous warning statement wording is acceptable also.*

(2) If subsurface investigations or construction of any work will be carried out with NRCS assistance, or under a contribution agreement, form MN-ENG-098, “Utility Notice” (see exhibit MN503.07) shall be sent or delivered to all affected landowners/operators or sponsors. The landowners/operators or sponsors are to provide the requested information, sign the form, and return Part 1 to the field office. Part 2 shall be forwarded to the excavator for timely completion and submission to the field office. The completed form must be returned before subsurface investigations or construction can begin. A copy of the signed form shall be retained in the case file.

(3) When a project has technical assistance provided by a private sector Technical Service Provider, the use of form MN-ENG-098 is not required. In that case, the statement in MN503.02 (e)(1) on the drawings is the minimum requirement beyond what is required by state law.

### MN503.04 Buried utilities.

(a) Form MN-ENG-098 shall be used in Minnesota on projects with NRCS technical assistance, or under contribution agreements. The landowner/operator or sponsor is to provide the information and take the actions as listed on Part 1 of the form. The excavator shall provide the information and take the actions as listed on Part 2 of the form.

*Note: Form MN-ENG-098 is not required for projects utilizing Technical Service Providers, although the warning statement in MN503.02(e)(1) is required.*

### MN503.05 Checklist.

Form MN-ENG-098 shall be used as the checklist. The checklist on the reverse side of Part 1 shall be completed for any work involving a buried utility performed with NRCS technical assistance or under a contribution agreement.

### MN503.06 State laws.

(a) Notification

(1) Notification of utilities shall be made through the Gopher State One-Call system as mandated by Minnesota Statute, Chapter 216D. The Gopher State One Call Excavators Handbook is available online at <http://www.gopherstateonecall.com>.

(2) The excavator is required to notify GSOC at least 48 hours prior to any excavation and will be held responsible for any damages to utilities if such notice is not given. The excavator is the person who actually performs the construction, soil boring, or other excavation activity and can be the contractor, the landowner, or an NRCS or state employee.

(b) Color Codes

Minnesota State Statutes, Chapter 216D, specifies color codes for use in marking utilities, proposed excavations and for surveying purposes. Fluorescent pink and white are the colors designated for surveying purposes and proposed excavations. These are the colors that must be used in Minnesota for marking work in areas where excavation activities will be performed.

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MN503.07 Exhibits - Utility Notice and Checklist Form

See Form MN-ENG-098, Utility Notice, Part 1 and 2.

§MN503.10 General.

(a) Confined Spaces. Certain structures that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance on are classified as "Confined Spaces" by Department of Labor and Industry Rules. These rules contain specific requirements that must be met before a person enters a confined space. Generally all catch basins, sumps, reception pits, covered tanks, etc, that the NRCS designs are considered confined spaces. It is generally known that manure in these structures can produce dangerous gases; however, even dry structures or those with only clean water can also develop dangerous air conditions. These conditions can develop quickly and may even occur during construction.

(1) During the design of structures that may be considered confined spaces, fencing, suitable covers or other means shall be specified in the plans to protect those areas from unauthorized entry. The planned measures shall be in place prior to certification by the NRCS.

(2) Where a structure is included in a plan that meets the criteria for a confined space, an appropriate warning statement shall be included in the operation and maintenance plan.

(3) Where a sump is included in a design, flexible discharge hoses, guide rails with flange connections, or other mechanical methods shall be considered to eliminate the need for sump entry during pump maintenance.

(4) NRCS employees shall not enter a confined space for construction inspection or any other purpose without proper authorization. All requests for authorization to enter confined spaces shall be submitted to the state conservation engineer.